

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

The Burke County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Courtroom at the Burke County Courthouse. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Terri Lodge Kelly. Commissioners Abrams, Martin, Nix, and Lively, along with County Attorney Adam Nelson, and County Manager Merv Waldrop were also in attendance.

Manager Waldrop gave the invocation and Commissioner Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Commissioner Nix motioned to approve the agenda with the modification of Item 16 – Authorizing the Purchase of Property for Additional Recreation Space to an Executive Session. Commissioner Martin seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Nix then motioned to approve the Minutes from the January 11th, 12th, and 20th meetings. Commissioner Abrams seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Manager Waldrop then introduced the new Director of Elections, Beau Gunn to the Board.

Sardis Mayor, Roger Lane, addressed the Board concerning City needs to include services for the youth, senior citizens, and recreation opportunities stating County services are specific to Waynesboro. Mayor Lane informed the Board the City has changed its Council Meeting to the third Tuesday of every month to no longer conflict with the Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Kelly stated the Board would take the request under consideration.

Bobbie Terrell-Griffin & Walter Dukes addressed the Board requesting the paving of Terrell-Forth and Dixon-Hendricks Roads. Ms. Griffin provided supporting documentation from property owners in agreeance of the paving. Manager Waldrop explained the process of road paving approval and provided Ms. Terrell-Griffin and Mr. Dukes with direction and invited them to attend the Public Works Committee meeting in April.

The Board then considered a request to adopt a Resolution naming a portion of Old Waynesboro Road in front of Palmer Grove Church as Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith Road. The designation will be from Four Points Road to the county line at McBean Creek. Commissioner Martin motioned to adopt the Resolution naming portion of Old Waynesboro Road as Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith Road with Commissioner Abrams seconding. Motion passed unanimously.

A request from Ralph Sandeford to rezone Parcel 013-001 from A1 to R1 for the property to be donated to Clear Springs Church for cemetery and parking expansion was then considered. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval. Commissioner Abrams motioned to approve the rezoning of Parcel 013-001 fro A1 to R1 with Commissioner Nix seconding. Motion passed unanimously.

A request from Commissioner Evans Martin to rezone Parcel 080-018J from R1 to A1 to combine it with a larger agricultural parcel was then considered. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval. Commissioner Martin recused himself from the vote. Commissioner Abrams motioned to

approve the rezoning of Parcel 080-018J from R1 to A1 with Commissioner Nix seconding. Motion passed 4-0 with Commissioner Martin abstaining.

A request from Teresa Dickey to rezone Parcel 099-019A from A1 to R1 to combine it with an adjacent R1 parcel. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval. Commissioner Abrams motioned to approve the rezoning of Parcel 099-019A from A1 to R1 with Commissioner Martin seconding. Motion passed unanimously.

Bids for SIP Phone Service were then opened. Bids were as follows:

BIDDER
IPFone
Planters Broadband Coop
Intellix Solutions

As the bids included several line items, they were turned over to the IT Staff for review and will be discussed during the Finance Committee meeting on February 9, 2022, at 4:00 pm.

The Agenda item relating to filing an unexpired term on the DFCS Board was tabled and Commissioner Abrams is still in the process of securing a candidate.

The Board then needed to approve the local qualifying fees for the 2022 Election Cycle. The fees for qualifying are 3% of the base salary for the position, per the General Assembly. The fee schedule is Solicitor General - \$899.65; Board of Education - \$216.00; and County Commissioner - \$180.00. Commissioner Nix motioned to approve the local qualifying fees and Commissioner Abrams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of a revised Radiological Emergency Plan was then considered. This Plan's update reflects changes in the community or at Plant Vogtle in case of any potential nuclear incidents. The Plan now reflects the E911 Department being separate from BEMA, provisions for pet decontamination, updates for traffic control points, and that Waynesboro Fire Department will assist with vehicle decontamination, if needed. Commissioner Nix recused himself from the vote due to his involvement in the Plan. Commissioner Abrams motioned to adopt the revised Radiological Emergency Plan with Commissioner Lively seconding. Motion passed 4-0 with Commissioner Nix abstaining.

The Board then held discussion on the adoption of a Resolution and Maintenance Agreement with DNR for the Brigham Landing boat ramp. The Agreement would hold the County responsible for maintaining the road into the boat ramp site, keeping trash removed, grass/vegetation control and silt removal. Commissioner Lively requested this item be tabled until the County can conduct further research into actual property ownership.

A budget amendment was then considered, moving \$34,000.00 from the Contingency account to the Administration Legal Services account for Sheriff Williams' litigation. Commissioner Abrams motioned to approve the budget amendment with Commissioner Nix seconding. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Abrams then requested Attorney Nelson provide an update on the Cobb Road project. Attorney Nelson stated the County has exhausted all options in dealing with the involved property owners, other than condemnation. Ms. Annie Phillips addressed the Board with her frustration concerning the project's progression and inquired into alternative solutions to obtaining right of ways. Attorney Nelson continued to explain the condemnation process stating it was a lengthy, expensive process and advised the Board to be consistent in property acquisition.

The Board then discussed the disposal of the Old Development Authority building located at 241 6th Street. Manager Waldrop suggested the use of an online auction firm such as BidderOne, which the County has used in the past, with a reserve price. Commissioner Nix motioned for the Development Authority building be declared surplus property and to authorize staff to dispose of it via online auction. Commissioner Martin seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mathews, EMA, provided the Board with an update stating the new brush trucks have been received and is very pleased with them. He stated on February 22nd there will be an EOC practice exercise with a graded exercise on May 22nd. He informed the Board there still are several open positions within his department with few applicants and stated he would like to target high school students for on-the-job training and participate in Career Days to increase recruits.

At 7:00 PM, Commissioner Martin motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss property acquisition and litigation matters. Commissioner Abrams seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, Commissioner Nix moved to go back into regular session and to authorize the Committee Chairman to execute an Executive Session affidavit on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Martin seconded the motion and it carried with all in favor.

Being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Terri Lodge Kelly, Chairman

Evans Martin, Co-Chairman

Q. U. "Art" Lively

R. Tommy Nix

Merv Waldrop, County Manager